

Now it is clear that this was part of a pattern designed to pit Sikhs and Kashmiri Muslims against each other with the ultimate aim of destroying both the Sikh and Kashmiri freedom movements. The Kashmir Media Service reported on May 28 that five Indian soldiers were caught in Srinagar trying to set fire to a Sikh temple and some Sikh homes. Sikh and Muslim villagers overpowered the troops as they were about to sprinkle gunpowder on Sikh houses and the temple. The Border Security Forces rescued several other troops. The villagers even seized a military vehicle, which the army later had to come and reclaim.

At a subsequent protest rally, local leaders said that this incident was part of an Indian government plan to create communal riots. As such, it fits perfectly with the Chithi Singhpora massacre.

Mr. Speaker, India has been trying to commit atrocities in order to promote violence by minorities against each other. Now that the massive numbers of minorities, that the Indian government has murdered, have been exposed, the government is trying to get these same minority groups to kill each other. The plan to create more bloodshed is backfiring on the Indian government. Fortunately, the groups have joined together to oppose the government's plan.

Such a plan is an unacceptable abuse of power. As the leader for democracy in the world, we should take a stand against this government's actions, which target minority groups for violence and abuse.

Given these kinds of actions it makes it very difficult to advocate that this Administration should lift the sanctions against India. To ensure the survival and success of freedom in South Asia, our government should go on record strongly supporting self-determination for all the peoples and nations of South Asia in the form of a free and fair, internationally-monitored plebiscite. This is the best way to support democracy in all of South Asia and to create strong allies for America in that troubled region.

LOSS OF A TRUE HEROINE, MRS. SUSAN WADHAMS

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday, Colorado lost one of its true heroines, Mrs. Susan Wadhams, of Littleton. Many of us on Capitol Hill also mourn the loss of Susan. She was my Chief of Staff and played an integral part in making many of our most celebrated legislative victories possible.

For most, Susan will be remembered for her boundless passion for America. She was an authentic patriot through and through. She enjoyed her work in the Congress and counted the opportunity a rare privilege. She utilized her station to advance the cause of freedom, liberty and human life every day she was here.

How tragic and ironic it is that her life with us has ended too soon. But Susan firmly persuaded all those around her to eventually share in her unwavering faith in God, and to take comfort in the promise of Heaven. From that standpoint, Mr. Speaker, we know that

Susan's life has not ended. It is only different. She has surely joined the Community of Saints, and this I say with confidence, predicated upon what I learned about Susan as our friendship deepened.

First and foremost, Susan was a pious Christian whose devotion to the Lord was established in the ancient traditions of the Roman Catholic Church. She was a wife, a mother, and a grandmother. She lived her life within this context. Her professional accomplishments were all achieved through a consistent ethic wherein the magnanimous goal of improving the American environment for family, faith, and children became the exclusive measure of merit.

For me personally, I am deeply inspired by Susan's valor. She left Washington two years ago, returning to Colorado in order to spend more time with her husband, her family, and the community she loved. Leaving the arena of public leadership, however, was not an option for Susan.

You see, Mr. Speaker, Susan understood America from the perspective of our Nation's Founders. She went to her grave convinced that God has richly blessed the United States of America and that His design for our country was of glorious expectation and hope. She believes that each American shares a burden of honor and loyalty to the Almighty and that the essence of American citizenship entails a spiritual duty to lead through love. Susan's love for her family, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances was omnipresent though sometimes subtle or complex; yet when fully appreciated was embraced and profound, certainly invigorating, but more often, infectious. That was especially the case in our office.

Susan was a splendid woman—elegant in every way. Trivial pursuits were of no interest to her. She would not be distracted. She was focused and disciplined. She lived life the way she engaged politics—no nonsense, nothing to excess, just win. Mr. Speaker, there are dozens of elected officials whose election victories were engineered by Susan Wadhams. I'm only one among them all.

Of course, that means there have been nearly as many whose public goals were thwarted by Susan's political prowess. It's simple, Mr. Speaker, if Susan Wadhams was on your side, your chances of winning were quite good. If she was against you, you best think of another line of work. Her opponents respected her, too.

Susan's passion for America was her advantage, and her faith was her power. This was a woman who knew herself and knew the times she was in; whose confidence exuded leadership and whose leadership caused action.

Susan's battle with cancer was no less heroic. If she was ever in fear, it was well concealed. She was a model of courage, even before her affliction. Though too short, her life was complete and her legacy is unmistakable. I thank God for my acquaintance with Susan. Our friendship is one I genuinely regard as a gift of Providence. I miss Susan Wadhams, and I will never forget her.

Mr. Speaker, others have shared with me their sentiments on the passing of Susan. I am deeply grateful for the outpouring of condolence by so many, and I pledge to pass along these comments to her survivors. Their appreciation, I assure the House, will be great, too.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I hereby submit for the RECORD the comments I've so far re-

ceived, along with two press accounts of Susan's life.

For Susan, being tough as nails was second nature when dealing with politics, earning her a reputation I truly admired. However, what impressed me most about Susan was her willingness to aid women in entering the political arena. Not only was she a mentor for me, but for many other women who have crossed the Schaffer office threshold.

Susan loved life, the west, her family and friends. She once told me she loved daisies. Since then, I have not looked at a daisy, nor will I ever without remembering her. I have lost a friend.—Brandi Graham

Susan Wadhams hired me for my first job on Capitol Hill. In my interview she said, 'Not many young women have the courage to move 2,000 miles away from their friends and family to pursue their ambitions. I think it's great that you are working to follow your dreams and I would like to be a part of helping young women like you in politics.' She opened a door for me and I will never forget that. I would not be where I am today without her. Susan left an indelible mark on all who knew her, she will be greatly missed.—Melissa Carlson, former staff member for Congressman Bob Schaffer and current Deputy Press Secretary for Governor George E. Pataki, (R-NY).

The best memory Susan ever shared with me was from her childhood in Colorado. She had a pet lamb which stayed in a pen just outside her bedroom window. When Susan went to bed at night, she would open the window and pull the lamb inside. When the lamb became too big to pull through the window, it would cry outside, unable to understand that it could no longer come in. I love this story. I'm going to miss Susan.—Kriste Kafer, the Heritage Foundation.

I'd like to add that Susan was very, very happy to be back here in Colorado with her family during this last year. We'll miss her dearly.—Kent Holsinger

I think these sums up Susan pretty well:

Strong: Susan was perhaps one of the strongest individuals I have ever had the privilege of knowing.

Undeterred: She accomplished much through sheer will and force of personality.

Smart: She possessed a lightning quick wit and a firm grasp of the issues.

Activist: Her activist nature was contagious.

Nationalist: A true patriot if there ever was one.—Rob Nanfelt

When Susan first interviewed me for a Legislative position with Bob, something just clicked. We spent most of it talking about our lives and how much we missed Colorado. She had accomplished so much in her life. As a young staffer striving to make it in the competitive Capitol Hill environment, I was impressed by her. I wanted to learn from her success. Once I started working with Bob, I saw her as a mentor. We talked freely about God, family and the importance of focusing on the right priorities in life. She discussed her previous bout with cancer and how important it was to have access to quality health care. I am sorry she didn't make it through this time. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family. We will miss her.—Stacy Brooks

Right up to the very end, May 15 to be exact, Susan was still thinking of others—